

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Sustainability Hotspot

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KAANAPALI SHOREWATERS

~Island of Maui~



Ocean recreation opportunities and beachgoers abound along the Kaanapali shoreline, creating safety concerns for DLNR.

As one of Hawaii's major tourist destinations, Kaanapali Beach services the Kaanapali resort area and encompasses approximately 589 acres containing numerous hotels and public beach accesses. Located in West Maui just 4 miles north of Lahaina, this area is a magnet for ocean recreation activities.

In addition to the use of the Kaanapali Beach area by swimmers, divers, etc., commercial permits have been issued for: catamarans, jet skis, water sledding, parasailing, and the rental of water sports equipment. This has resulted in an increasing number of conflicts among the users and a decline in safe recreational use.

Additional factors adding to these problems include:

- the lack of a Harbor Agent assigned to Kaanapali Beach;
- inadequate resources for enforcement of the Hawaii Administrative Rules pertaining to this area;
- routine violation of rules governing areas of special use such as swimming and beach access for vessels as defined by a buoy system;
- difficulty in determining and enforcing encroachment decisions based on ever-changing *mauka* (inland) boundary of Kaanapali Beach proper. Boundaries are denoted by the vegetation on the shoreline and change with respect to growth rates and plantings by hotels.

DLNR's Sustainability Hotspot Team:

Chuck Penque - Boating and Ocean Recreation, Maui, 243-5824;

Skippy Hau - Aquatic Resources;

Sam Lemmo - Land Division;

Phil Ohta - Land Division;

Stanley Okamoto - Conservation and Resources Enforcement;

is responsible for the future management and sustainability of the Kaanapali Shorewaters area.

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DLNR hopes to develop harmonious, shared use of the Kaanapali Beach area through education, understanding, monitoring, and enforcement.

DLNR's Vision for the Future and How to Attain It

DLNR's vision for the future is the establishment of harmonious, shared use of the Kaanapali Shorewaters area through education, understanding, monitoring, and enforcement. This can be accomplished by:

- hiring, equipping, and empowering a Boating Harbor Agent;
- performing surveys resulting in permanent markers for the inland boundaries;
- hiring and equipping additional Conservation and Resources Enforcement officers assigned to the area;
- installing offshore moorings in designated areas;
- amending the Hawaii Administrative Rules to reflect all changes;
- and, by actively pursuing community-based management options, development of advisory committees and adopt-a-harbor groups.

To implement DLNR's vision for the future, a budget of \$478,000 would be required in the first year and significantly less in successive years because of start-up costs. 🌺



DLNR's Hotspot Team for Kaanapali: (top row, l-r) Penque, Hau, Lemmo, (bottom row) Ohta, Okamoto.